

SEARCHING FOR
THE STRANGLER.

Police Think Rech Was His
Wife's Slayer and Trace
Him to Philadelphia.

She Was Murdered, Buried in
the Woods and a Tree Felled
to Hide the Grave.

Her Will Discloses That She Left
Her Entire Property in Trust
to Her Husband.

ASPHYXIATION PROVEN BY AUTOPSY

Shed Tree Trunks and Branches Give
Strange Evidence of a Burial That
Was Hasty and in the Dark-
ness of Night.

Philadelphia, March 28.—The rapid and sensational developments of the day have practically established that John Rech, the Estellville, N. J., farmer, strangled his wife and then buried her body near his own residence. The detectives believe they have traced Rech from Allentown to Philadelphia, and they are of the opinion that he is hiding in this city. All the available men are watching places known to be visited by Rech in former years, and his capture is momentarily expected.

The careful investigation made, not only involves Rech in a web of circumstantial evidence, but it also shows the murder was one of the most cold-blooded crimes of recent years. Seemingly the only motive was avarice, the husband apparently wishing to kill his pretty wife to get full possession of a fortune, the income from which he had helped to spend for years.

The discovery of one startling bit of evidence has been followed by the discovery of another, equally as startling, all day long. A drive of five miles through a woods made up of scraggly pines and underbrush brought the May's Landing constable and some officers from Atlantic City to the scene of the murder this morning.

The Rechs have been living in an old and almost tumble-down wooden house on a hundred-acre farm just on the outskirts of the village of Estellville. The price of the farm when they bought it last Spring was \$500, which may indicate the character of the property.



Clues Which the Police Believe Point to the Murderer.

A pine tree, newly felled, attracted the notice of men searching for the missing Mrs. Rech. They found underneath it a grave from which they took her body. The body showed evidences of strangulation. In Rech's woodshed was discovered an axe, in the blade of which was a large nick. By comparing the axe with the chips and the stump of the tree, they found plainly indicated in the latter the marks of the nick.

Boards had been nailed across all the lower windows and even across the doors. The officers broke in, however, and thoroughly ransacked the place. One thing they found was a full-size crayon portrait of Rech which is said to be a good likeness. It will be duplicated in miniature and forwarded to the police in all neighboring cities.

Another hint of great importance as evidence, Rech's axe, a tool which is identified as his property by two neighbors who had borrowed it, was found hidden under the wood-box. There is a big nick in the blade of this axe, and the nick fits over the marks on the chips from the stump of the pine tree that was chopped down to cover Mrs. Rech's rude grave in the orchard. This stump stands not more than ten feet from one end of the hole in the ground from which the body of the young wife was taken.

The marks left by the nick in the axe are raised lines on the wood and look not unlike weils. The axe fits the chips so exactly that it may be taken as proved that it must have been Rech's own axe that was used to fell the tree.

Another bit of interesting evidence led to the conclusion that the gruesome work of concealing the grave of the murdered woman was done at night. A saw as well as an axe was used. The man who handled the saw must have worked in the dark, for, in attempting to saw off limbs of pine trees to throw over the fresh mound of earth, he saved into the trunks of trees in a way no man, however unskillful, would be apt to do if he worked in the light.

HANDKERCHIEFS AROUND THE NECK. When the body was drawn out of the grave there were two handkerchiefs tied tightly around the neck. Neighbors of Rech say he was very skillful in tying knots. One knot was at the right of the wind-pipe, and the other at the left. Dr.

There is money to be made in Cripple Creek. When you go take the "Rock Island Route" to Colorado Springs. This is the only direct line—saves several hours' time to Cripple Creek. Send for full information. JOHN SEBASTIAN, Gen'l Pass. Agent, Chicago. **



Mrs. Bessie Rech, Strangled and Buried by Her Murderer.

Mrs. Rech was the daughter of Dr. Weaver, of Germantown, Pa. He left a fortune at his death, but practically disinherited her. She married John Rech. They started keeping a saloon, but later went to Estellville, N. J., and lived on a farm. Her body was found Friday morning, buried under a newly felled tree, and with two handkerchiefs knotted about the neck. The police have clues which point to Rech, and they have traced him as far as Philadelphia.

Louis Souder, the Atlantic County physician, looked closely at the knots yesterday, and then made a post-mortem examination of the body. He made his report to the Coroner's Jury in the afternoon, and said:

"I found no marks of violence upon the head, the body, the arms or legs. The only marks I did find were around the neck, and they may have resulted from tying the handkerchiefs around it so tightly that the blood vessels on each side were congested. The vital organs were all in a normal condition, indicating that the deceased was in perfect health.

"The heart alone was in a peculiar condition. The right side of this organ was gorged with blood, and the left side of it was empty. This is often the result of asphyxiation. I think it very probable that death resulted from strangulation.

There was nothing to indicate the woman was poisoned, though the contents of the stomach have not yet been examined, and there was no indication that she could possibly have come to her death from

appeared to be closed. It seems Rech left for Philadelphia Monday morning to get his brother. They returned together Tuesday night and called on us. We asked Rech where his wife was, and he said she had gone away, and then added that she was in Philadelphia.

"While Rech was away the two days he left the eleven-months-old baby at the Hoff's, a mile away. Wednesday and Thursday Rech and his brother spent in nailing the house up tight and selling the cow and chickens. They left, together with the baby and a trunkful of goods, on Thursday.

"It was that day that Rech called on me and showed me the letter from his wife, which, he says, he found pinned on the table. That letter, I believe, was written by her when she left him the first time, al-



though she was going to the child and did not mention in the letter that it was for that reason.

"Nobody can make me believe she intended to go away the second time and leave him and the child. If she had written that letter when he says she wrote it, she would have mentioned the baby.

JONES, THE DISCOVERER. Ben Jones, who was the first to investigate the disappearance of Mrs. Rech, is one of the characters of the village. He is deaf. To him all the credit for the discovery of the body of Mrs. Rech is due. He was a friend of the Rechs, and when the woman disappeared, he went to the depot at May's Landing, and, with his customary inquisitiveness, asked where she had gone. He learned that no one around the depot had seen her go away.

Jones went away possessed of the idea that Mrs. Rech was murdered. He searched the yard and the woods around the house and finally came upon the pine tree felled down and lying prostrate. He reasoned that no man would chop down such a tree without cutting it up for firewood; so he poked under the tree and the brush that had been piled upon it and saw the fresh dirt over the grave.

It was then that he summoned Mischler, who went with him, and uncovered the body. Both men say that when Mrs. Rech's face was taken out from under the sack that covered it it was still strikingly handsome.

MRS. RECH'S WILL FOUND. The search for a motive for the murder has led the officers to uncover certain very singular facts. Mrs. Rech's will, or what purports to be the will, has been found. The document was placed in the hands of a May's Landing notary, and at the same time a power of attorney was prepared for Rech, which later he brought back, ostensibly signed by his wife.

The will leaves all the property of Mrs. Rech in trust to her husband, to revert to the infant child when that child shall reach its majority.

The murder has greatly excited the people of Atlantic County. Chief of Police Eldridge, of Atlantic City, has placed his detectives at the command of Sheriff Smith Johnson. County Prosecutor Perry is taking a personal interest in the search for the murderer. There is a prospect of an offer of a large reward. The police of Philadelphia, Camden, Gloucester City, Allentown and other cities are working hard on the case.

Sheriff P. Johnson went from May's Landing to Philadelphia in the morning to enlist the services of the city detective department and to follow the clue offered by the trunk which Rech shipped with him, and which, it is thought, may have contained clothes of his wife. This trunk was traced to Allentown.

Sheriff Johnson said to-day: "I feel confident we will get Rech."

Elizabeth Rech, the murdered woman, was a Philadelphian, and, according to Lawyer Carroll Williams, was a young woman whose career had been of a checkered character. She was a daughter by his first wife of Dr. Martin Weaver, of Germantown. When he died in 1835, she being then fifteen years old, he left his estate, of about \$5,000, to his second wife. The daughters contested the will, and an

agreement was reached which the two women were to divide the income of the estate. In case the daughter left no heirs, however, her share of the estate was to go to her death to several charities.

Soon after her father's death she married William Heft, of Germantown, but in 1887 he obtained a divorce on statutory grounds. Later she married Henry W. Bachman, of this city. Between the time of the divorce and her second marriage she fell into the care of the Rosine Home for Fallen Women, and the president of the home, Mrs. Francis Diment, engaged Mr. Williams and his partner, Mr. McGill, to look after her affairs. Mr. Williams said she was a strange combination of peculiar ideas.

"She would teach in a Sunday school during the afternoon," he said, "and at night would enter into the wildest escapades. Bachman soon tired of her manner of life and a divorce followed.

"Then she married Rech, who she met at Gloucester, when that resort was flourishing, he being a saloon keeper there. Their life since then has been far more happy.

"I did not send her \$4,000 a few days ago, as reported, and to my knowledge she had no large sum of money to get, which is said to have been a motive for the crime."

The only possible motive for the crime, Mr. Williams thinks, lies in a story concerning the child which the couple had with them. About two weeks ago Mrs. Rech visited Mr. Williams at his law office, No. 608 Walnut street. He was surprised to see that she carried a baby, which she said was seventh months old. He had seen her at least once a month for the past year, and he did not believe the baby was hers. The only reason for her to masquerade as a mother he knew was that her money might go to her husband and the child at her death, and yet, why she should want to leave it to her husband he could not understand.

She told Mr. Williams that her husband treated her badly and she intended to leave him. At that time two of her front teeth were missing, and she said the loss was the result of a quarrel.

MORE INCENDIARY FIRES. Five Have Now Been Started in Rutherford, N. J., in Twenty-four Hours.

Rutherford, N. J., March 28.—At 10 o'clock to-night Police Captain Holland, of this place discovered flames issuing from under the stope of the office building occupied by L. Bobbink on Depot square. The Captain summoned assistance and extinguished the fire before much damage had been done.

An examination revealed the fact that the stope had been soaked with kerosene oil, and that a bundle of straw had been placed under the stope and ignited.

At the same time a fire broke out in the barn of Peter Saunders, not far distant, and before the firemen arrived the structure was totally destroyed. This makes the fifth fire of supposed incendiary origin which has been started in this village during the past twenty-four hours.

HANGED IN EFFIGY
BY ANGRY GIRLS.

Discharged Cigarette Rollers Express Their Opinions of an Inventor.

Displaced by His Machines, They Make Their Last Day in Hall's Factory Memorable.

THEY DIDN'T DO A THING TO HIM, BUT THEY WILL IF HE RISKS HIMSELF NEAR

First Avenue—They Execute a War Dance, Rend the Effigy to Shreds and Walk Out.

When Mame Madigan left her home in First avenue and started for the all-tobacco cigarette factory of Thomas H. Hall, No. 207 East Thirty-seventh street, the morning of last Friday was young. When she arrived at the factory she found all the other cigarette girls weeping.

Every one of the 300 girls employed in the factory began talking at the same time about "trouble" and "hard luck." After a while Miss Madigan succeeded in discovering what the trouble was. Mr. Hall had sold his factory to the American Tobacco Company, and she and her fellow workmen had been served with a notice to "quit." She went to Foreman Schoonmaker and asked him why she had lost her job.

"The new owners intend to put in patent machines," he answered, "and will displace with hand work."

Then she went back and talked in whispers to her companions. After a time they all went to work and the foreman made up his mind that they had decided to accept their fate quietly, but what he saw and heard when he returned to the big work room after dinner made him shiver.

HANGED FROM A RAFTER.

During his absence the girls had made an effigy of the inventor of the cigarette-making machine. They had made it out of a bundle of straw, a suit of old clothes and a high silk hat. This effigy was suspended to one of the rafters by a rope. Grouped around it were the girls. They were armed with knives.

"What in the dickens does this mean?" shouted the astonished foreman.

Then Mame Madigan raised her right hand and shouted: "Let's give 'em a whirl." And they did. First they executed a war dance, and then, forming in two ranks, with Mame and two boys at the head, they marched up and down the long room. Some filled the tobacco scented atmosphere with the gruesome music of harmonicas and whistles. One carried a drum. Every girl was yelling and screaming. As they passed the "straw man" they stabbed him with their knives and punched him with their fists. The din was terrific, and did not subside until the effigy was a shapeless mass of shreds and patches.

WHY THEY GOT IN REALITY.

The late foreman made all manner of threats in his efforts to stop the proceedings, but the girls laughed at him derisively. After it was all over Mame and her associates left in a body.

The new machines will be placed in the factory this week.

Yesterday the girls had got over their indignation somewhat, and came back for their wages. They participated in a "farewell reception" given to them by their old employer. It was held at the offices of T. H. Hall & Sons, No. 214 East Thirty-seventh street. Mame Madigan was there.

So was the girl who had worked nineteen years in the factory. The members of the firm gave the girls bunches of flowers, and the girls responded with cheers. Speeches were made by Superintendent Thomas Allen and others. The last act of the drama consisted of three cheers for the Halls, proposed by Mame Madigan.

WHISKEY WENT UP IN BLAZE.

Flames Lick Up Over One Million Gallons Near Louisville.

Louisville, Ky., March 28.—Warehouses Nos. 2 and 3 of the Pleasure Ridge Distillery, twelve miles below this city, burned shortly before noon, entailing a loss of nearly a million dollars.

The blaze started in Warehouse No. 2 and communicated to the other. Engines were sent from this city, but did not get there in time to be of any service. Over one million two hundred thousand gallons of whiskey, all in bond, were stored on the premises.

Morton Gets Two More Delegates.

Poughkeepsie, March 28.—Governor Morton was endorsed for President at the Eighteenth Congressional District Convention, held here to-day, and S. D. Cuykendall, of Ulster, and General John H. Ketcham, of Dutchess, were chosen national delegates.

HOUSE AND HERMIT BURNED.

The Old Man Is Believed to Have Been Suffocated in His Sleep.

Middletown, N. Y., March 28.—Two dwelling houses in Wurtsboro were destroyed by fire this morning and a retired merchant, Patrick McGuinness, met his death in the flames. He was ninety years of age and lived alone. The fire started in his home, about midnight, and he was doubtless suffocated by the smoke before awakening.

THE CIGARETTE MAKING MACHINE THAT CAUSED ALL THE TROUBLE.

Cornelius Rutan, who lived with his family next door, was awakened by a crackling noise. He found his house full of smoke and flames were already creeping in the window. With great difficulty he and his family reached the open air. They at once discovered that the McGuinness house was in flames. Mr. Rutan made several attempts to enter it, but was driven back by the smoke and heat.

When the flames had subsided the body was found in the ashes. The head and arms were burned off and the trunk was a crisp. McGuinness's daughter, Mrs. Daniel Hayes, was overcome by the sight and now lies raving at her home.

Some Cigarette Girls Who Lost Their Employment.

Their indignation at being deprived of their situations in Hall's factory led them to hang in effigy the inventor of the machine that will hereafter do their work. They cherish none but kindly feelings for their employers, however, and yesterday took formal and affectionate leave of them.

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TAMMANYITES TO GO DRY

National Convention Delegates to Leave on a Sunday, and There's the Raines Law.

The Tammany Hall delegates, alternates and shouters who will attend the Democratic National Convention, may be doomed to spend a dry Sunday, July 5, and on board a special train at that. That's what will happen if the Raines law is strictly enforced.

The Democratic National Convention will organize in Chicago, Tuesday, July 7. The annual Fourth of July pow-wow of the Tammany Society will take place on the previous Saturday. Unless there is a change in the programme, the special convention of Tammany Hall should be at the Grand Central Depot early in the morning of July 6.

Under the strict construction of the Raines law, no liquors nor beer can be sold or given away in this State on Sunday. It is said that it will be against the law to use intoxicating liquors on trains on Sundays.

That may be so," remarked a Tammany Hall Senator yesterday. "But who will be on board to stop us or arrest us?"

At a meeting of the Tammany Hall Executive Committee, held yesterday afternoon, preliminary arrangements for the trip to Chicago were discussed. Daniel M. Donagan, who recently visited Chicago as the representative of the organization, made his report. After his report had been received, it was agreed that the headquarters of Tammany Hall should be at the Auditorium Hotel. One hundred and fifty rooms have been engaged and the Tammanyites are to pay \$5 a day each. Thus far 110 Tammanyites have enrolled themselves as convention pilgrims.

BANKERS FOR GOLD ONLY.

Group VII. of the State Association Asks Both Parties to Advocate One Standard.

Group VII. of the New York State Bankers' Association met yesterday, at the Murray Hill Hotel, and unanimously adopted the following:

"Whereas, The continued agitation in favor of the free coinage of silver, and the evasive declarations in the national political platforms in regard to the standard of money, have been productive of great commercial disaster, and have tended to create doubt as to the stability of our monetary system; therefore,

Resolved, That we urge upon the delegates to the National Conventions of both the political parties the necessity of insisting on such action as will secure a plain and unequivocal declaration on the maintenance of the present gold standard.

There were about fifty members of the association, which covers the counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester, present. Chairman Bradford Rhodes, after hearing the reports of the various committees and entertaining the foregoing resolution, adjourned the meeting, and the members went to the dining room, where a luncheon was served. The following address was given by N. Fowler, of Elizabeth, N. J., a member of the Banking and Currency Committee of the House of Representatives: "Financial Affairs in Congress," arguing for a system of gold coin and gold notes issued by national banks, backed by Government bonds.

LOUISE MANFRED DEAD.

She Was Well Known as a Comic Opera Singer, and Was Popular in the Far West.

The funeral services over the body of Mrs. Charles M. Pyke, known to the theatrical world as Louise Manfred, comic opera prima donna, will be held at her late residence, No. 138 West Thirty-seventh street, this morning at 10 o'clock. They will be in charge of the Actors' Fund and the Interment will be in the Fund plot at the Cemetery of the Evergreens.

Mrs. Pyke was born in Portsmouth, Mo., in 1855, and went with her parents to St. Joseph, Mo., when she was quite young. In 1875 she made her stage debut in a "Comic opera" called "The Two Cadets." The late Eugene Field was also in the cast, which was made up principally of amateur performers. Four years later she came to this city and was the soprano prima donna in the J. H. Hawley comic opera company which appeared in "Patience" at the Metropolitan Concert Hall, Broadway and Fortieth street. "Patience" Hall was a member of the company at that time.

Mrs. Pyke met Miss Manfred, then, and soon afterward they were married. After three years of traveling in the Eastern States, during which period she originated the role of Phoebe in Stepen's and Solomon's comic opera, "Billie Taylor," Miss Manfred and her husband went to the Pacific coast, where for years she was a successful and popular prima-donna star.

Returning from the far West last Fall, she became the leading woman in the company specially organized to sing "The Prisoner of Sunday" at the Imperial Music Hall. Her engagement ended there some six weeks ago, and a few days later she was taken ill with an affection of the liver, which brought about blood poisoning and caused her death. Her husband and her brother were with her when she died on Friday last.

Suicide in West Hoboken.

While suffering from an attack of alcoholic insanity Michael Helms, a tailor, forty-two years old, of No. 174 Paterson avenue, West Hoboken, cut his throat from ear to ear late Friday night. Helms attempted suicide once before, earlier in the week, by gassing himself with a knife while on a visit to his brother, a Bloomfield street shoemaker.

Paterson Couple Almost Suffocated.

Paterson, N. J., March 28.—Mr. and Mrs. Richard Torbett were almost suffocated by a smoking oil lamp at their home last night. Torbett had been reading and blew out the light, but the lamp continued to burn, as the oil was low. This morning he and his wife were found unconscious by their daughter, Phyllis, who was summoned, and after an hour's work succeeded in reviving the couple.

Helz to a Part of Philadelphia.

Portland, Ore., March 28.—A. W. Mire, a blacksmith of this city, is one of the five lucky heirs to the Daniel Pegg estate of Philadelphia. Should the courts decree in their favor there is a \$70,000,000 estate to be divided up among them. It consists of thirty-four acres of valuable land in the heart of Philadelphia.

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